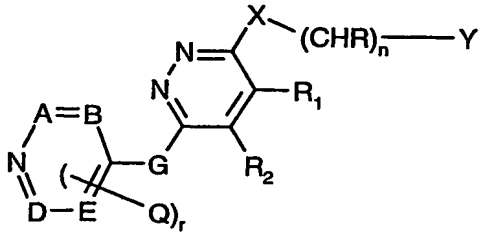
What is claimed

1. A method of treating VHL comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.

2. A method of treating VHL-related hemangioblastoma comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative of formula I



(I)

wherein

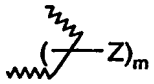
r is 0 to 2,

n is 0 to 2,

m is 0 to 4,

R_1 and R_2 (i) are lower alkyl or

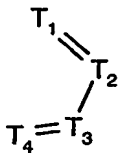
(ii) together form a bridge in subformula I*



(I*)

the binding being achieved via the two terminal carbon atoms, or

(iii) together form a bridge in subformula I**



(I**)

wherein one or two of the ring members T_1, T_2, T_3 and T_4 are nitrogen, and the others are in each case CH, and the binding is achieved via T_1 and T_4;

A, B, D, and E are, independently of one another, N or CH, with the stipulation that not more than 2 of these radicals are N;

G is lower alkylene, lower alkylene substituted by acyloxy or hydroxy, $-CH_2-O-$, $-CH_2-S-$, $-CH_2-NH-$, oxa (-O-), thia (-S-), or imino (-NH-);

Q is lower alkyl;

R is H or lower alkyl;

X is imino, oxa, or thia;

Y is unsubstituted or substituted aryl, pyridyl, or unsubstituted or substituted cycloalkyl; and

Z is amino, mono- or disubstituted amino, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, hydroxy, etherified or esterified hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, esterified carboxy, alkanoyl, carbamoyl, N-mono- or N,N-disubstituted carbamoyl, amidino, guanidino, mercapto, sulfo, phenylthio, phenyl-lower alkylthio, alkylphenylthio, phenylsulfonyl, phenyl-lower alkylsulfinyl or alkylphenylsulfinyl, substituents Z being the same or different from one another if more than 1 radical Z is present;

and wherein the bonds characterized, if present, by a wavy line are either single or double bonds;

or an N-oxide of the defined compound, wherein 1 or more N atoms carry an oxygen atom, or the salt of such compound having at least one salt-forming group,

to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof.

4. Method of claim 3 wherein the 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative of formula I is 1-(4-chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine.

5. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the warm-blooded animal is a human.

6. Method according to claim 5 which comprises administering 1-(4-chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the patient on a once daily schedule at a dose in the range from 1000 mg/day to 1400 mg/day.

7. Method according to claim 6 wherein the once daily dose is 1200 mg/day to 1300 mg/day.

8. Method according to claim 6 wherein the once daily dose is 1250 mg/day.

9. A method of treating VHL and/or VHS-related hemangioblastoma comprising administering a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative in an amount which is therapeutically effective against VHL to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof in combination with surgery and/or radiation therapy.

10. A commercial package comprising a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative together with instructions for use thereof in the treatment of VHL and/or VHS-related hemangioblastoma.

11. Use of a 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of VHL.

12. Use according to claim 11 wherein the 4-pyridylmethyl-phthalazine derivative is 1-(4-chloroanilino)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine.